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SEVERAL

SPEECHES

IN THE

Great Britain

House of Commons In England,

For and against the B I L L for the
better securing the Dependency of
the Kingdom of *Ireland*, on the
Crown of Gr. *Britain*.

In a Letter from a Gentleman there
to his Friend here.

Printed in the Year, 1720.

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Several Speeches in the H. of Commons. &c;

London, March, 5th.

THE Peers of *Ireland* had their Tryal Yesterday, which lasted two hours, and then they were to be executed ; but they are to have the favour of being Hang'd, not in a Rope, but in a silken String ; For the Preamble of the Bill that now Taxes the Subjects of *Ireland*, with making Attempts to withdraw their Dependance on the Crown of *Gr. Britain* is to be alter'd in the Committee ; so as to carry less Reflection,

The Persons who appear'd for us, were Sir Richard Steel, Pitt the Son of Governour Pitt, Lord Tyrconnel, Hungerford, Plummer, Ld. Molesworth, and Hutchinson.

And the Speakers for the Bill were Nevil of Berkshire, Coun. York, Sir. Jos. Jekil and Smith.

The first that open'd the Debate was Mr. Nevil, who took notice of some Passages in a Pamphlet, Entituled, Reasons most humbly offer'd to the House of Commons, why the Bill shou'd not pass into a Law ; which passages

gave him Offence ; One was as follows: *As ill Men make an ill use of every thing ; so it is observ'd of those without Doors, that none express half the Ardor for passing this Bill, as they who are dissaffected to the King's Title, Person and FAMILTY.* He endeavour'd to vindicate the Approvers of the Bill from that Aspersi-
 on ; and proceeded to Remark on this other Passage ; *As to the other Matters contain'd in this Bill, particularly the binding Ireland by Laws made in Gr. Britain, they are Arcana Imperij, which I am strongly of Opinion ought to continue so, and not be made the subject of publick Debates or Writings.* This he said was affirming as much as the Author dar'd ; That *Gr. Britain* cou'd not make Laws to bind *Ireland*, there is no doubt, but they are in a fair way to shake off their Dependency ; As a further proof thereof, he urg'd the mighty Love, which they shew on proper Occasions towards the English Gentlemen, that come among them ; and particularly to the Officers of the Army, who tho' they subsist for the most part by their Commissions, are loaded there with a Tax of 4 s. in the Pound when out of that Kingdom ; he added that the Bill did no Injustice to the Lords of *Ireland*, in hindering them from
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continuing to receive Appeal ; since the earliest Appeals they had receiv'd, was so late as the Year 1710 which shew'd they had no good Pretensions to that Right ; and therefore he mov'd for Committing the Bill

Sr. Richard Steel Answer'd what he said, by shewing that whoever went about to Create a misunderstanding between the two Nations might properly be call'd Enemies and Disaffected Persons to his Majesty's Government. That the making Laws in *Gr. Britain*, was a point he wou'd not touch upon, there being other parts of the Bill he had to Object to.

That as to the Tax laid upon the Officers ; he really thought it an Argument not of their Hate, but Love towards them ; for thereby they shew'd they wish'd in *Ireland* for more of their Company ; but if they waited for opportunities to withdraw their Subjection to *Gr. Britain*, there was nothing they cou'd more desire ; than that the Officers shou'd be absent from their Regiments. He then spoke to the Preamble of the Bill ; and shew'd the severity of laying a whole Nation under the Imputation of attempting to Rebel ; when nothing cou'd possibly be shewn of that kind ; but on the contrary, Numberless Instances might

might be given of their unparrallell'd Zeal for the present Government, one of which he wou'd mention, Namely, the putting a price on the Pretender's Head, at a time when the People of England dar'd not do it.

And as to steddiness to the English Interest, and the Protestant Religion, there cou'd be no doubt of that ; Since there was not a Family of Protestants in Ireland, which had not been in Mourning for the loss of some Relation, who fell in the Cause. He urg'd several things from the general Topicks of Liberty, and the growing power of the House of Lords of Gr. Britain ; and Moved to reject the Bill.

Mr. Pitt seconded him, and insisted more on the insatiable thirst of Power of the Lords of Gr. Britain ; not forgetting however to set forth the Merits of the People of Ireland.

The Ld. Tyrconnel said that he took the Subjection of Ireland, to be sufficiently secur'd by Poyning's Law.

Mr. Hungerford spoke the best in our behalf ; said that by the Charter of Edward the 3d. we had the same Right of Parliaments with England before the Union.

That the Protestant Subjects there had always behaved themselves with regard to England ;

land ; That their Affections to the present Establishment were especially conspicuous ; That he defyed any Person to shew that England, till of late Years made Laws to bind Ireland ; which if it had been the Practice ; Sir Henry Poyning needed not have used a Trick to procure that famous Law, call'd Poyning's Law, to pass in an Irish Parliament ; which was expressly made to secure the Dependence of that Kingdom on this of England : That if the English had been of the Opinion, which Gentlemen now are of, without doubt an Act had pass'd here to that purpose ; but this our Ancestors of that Time did not imagine they could do ; And therefore left it to that Kingdom to provide for ; on this Occasion he gave the History of that Act, and the Passing of it.

He then shew'd the Artifice of the Bill, which he own'd was very cunningly drawn ; nevertheless it might be seen that the Lords of whose growing Power the Commons were always justly Jealous, intended thereby to draw the Commons, by an indirect way, to Confirm their Pretensions of Right to receive Appeals ; As to the Rt. of the Lords of Ireland to receive Appeals, they seem'd to him to have as much as the House of Lords of Eng.

England ; and it was but of late Years that it had been comply'd with by the Commons here ; tho' never Confirmed ; and if Ireland had no Parliaments for 28 Years ; 'twas no wonder the Lords there receiv'd no Appeals during that time : When that Kingdom came to be settled : Then their Parliaments came into the Practice of what they observ'd was done in the English Parliaments. Some Persons made it an Argument, that since Causes were of Old Time wont to be removed by Writts of Error from the King's-Bench of Ireland to the King's-Bench of England, therefore a fortiori, Appeals from the Courts of Ireland might be brought over hither, but (however strange it might appear to the House) he wou'd tell them he doubted the Truth of that receiv'd Opinion, for he had by him the oldest Manuscript now extant, of Proceedings of the King's-Bench of England, being of Henry the 7th's Reign, in which there is not mention of one Writt of Error, returned from the King's-Bench of Ireland, neither can they be found in any of the Law-books, Printed or otherwise, till for-sooth about 27 Years ago one ----- (I have forgot his Name, tho' Mr. Hungerford mentioned it,) pick'd

up the Discovery from some Under-Clerk of the Court, over a Pot of Ale, and incerted the same in a Book, which he put forth. He said several other things, which I cannot carry in my mind ; and declared against Committing the Bill.

Mr. Plummer said he cou'd agree to all the Enacting part of the Bill, but thought the Preamble asserted a Crime upon a Body of People, who deserved a better Opinion ; and no one Fact had been alledg'd that made them guilty of what was laid to their Charge.

Counsellor Yorke was for Committment, and said the Subjects of Ireland were to be Consider'd in two respects, as English and Irish ; That the Irish were a Conquer'd People ; and the English a Colony transplanted thither, and as a Colony Subject to the Laws of their Mother Country. That the Charter granted by Edw. the 3d. to that Kingdom, cou'd not render it independent of the Legislature of England ; for that all Lawyers knew it was not in the power of the Kings of England, by Charter or Seal, to Alienate one part of their Dominions from the rest ; this being so, it followed necessarily ; That the Subjects of England transplanting them-

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selves into Ireland, carried with them that
 Subjection, which before their Departure they
 owed to the Legislature of England : That
 Gentlemen needed not to apprehend, that a-
 greeing to this Bill wou'd by Consequence,
 confirm the Pretensions of the Lords of Gr.
 Britain to receive Appeals ; for that in truth
 the Commons were at as much Liberty as
 ever to dispute that Matter with them, there
 being no mention made ; that the Lords have
 such power, or any directions to the Subjects
 of Ireland to Appeal to them ; but the Bill
 Carried this good with it, that it deprived
 the Lords of Ireland from the Exercise of a
 Power, to which they had no Right ; and
 which if granted them, wou'd of Consequence
 make that Kingdom independent of Great-
 Britain ; it being certain, that where ever the
 last resort lies, there must be independency,
 and the Supreme Power,

As to England's binding Ireland by Laws,
 he said that long ago a Law was made here,
 directing how the Peers of Ireland should be
 attended to Parliament ; and since the Revo-
 lution there was an Act of Resumption ; both
 which were Laws that bound Ireland ; and
 were accordingly complied with there. For
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the rest, he said the Protestants of Ireland were a brave and Loyal People, and ought to be Cherish'd and Encouraged; and he believed the Bill would procure the greatest advantages possible to both Kingdoms; for it would unite and knitt together the Interests and Affections of both to each other, there was a loud Laugh at that. Lord Molesworth spoke to all the parts of the Bill, and mention'd the Retrospect that it would have, and the misery and injustice that might from thence ensue to many Possessors of Estates.

He likewise Quoted the D^r of Bolton's Speech at the Proroguing the Parliament; which came after the Proceedings of the House of Lords, in Sherlocks Case; and yet he was so satisfy'd of the Loyalty of the Parliament, that he gave them the best of Characters: That he could not reconcile the Preamble of the Bill to that Evidence of their Loyal behaviour: That the point of binding Ireland by British Laws, was too nice a matter to be enter'd into; and he thought was Arcana Imperij, and therefore never to be attempted but on the most important occasions; That the House, he observ'd would not own, that the Lords of Gr. Britain have a Right to

to receive Appeals ; but the Bill prevents Appealing in Ireland, where then must the Subjects go ? He could wish the antient Constitution were restored, and that both Houses would hear Appeals conjoyntly ; or that any other Method were found out, rather than to leave it to the Lords of Great-Britain.

Sir Jos. Jekyl said, that by an Act of James the 1st, Ireland is a Conquer'd Kingdom ; Yet he did not Love to use that harsh Word ; but rather Call'd England a Mother, and Ireland a Daughter Kingdom:

For the same Reason, he was for altering Preamble of the Bill in a Committee, and taking out the Reflections, it seems to cast on the people of Ireland ; but as to the Enacting part, he was intirely for it ; it being impossible, but that where-ever the Supreme Legislature is, there must be the last resort ; and therefore to say nothing of the Novelty of the Lords of Ireland's receiving Appeals ; it was unpossible to allow them that Right ; without granting they have a Supreme Legislature within themselves, which he hoped wou'd never be allowed by a British House of Commons ; nor could be true in Facts because no King of England can by his own
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single Act sever one part of Dominions from the rest, to make them independent of the Legislature that before controul'd them.

That it was a maxim in the English Laws known to all the Long Robe, that Appeals must be from a Court of Equity ; and since they cannot be allowed to go up to the House of Lords of Ireland, without Confessing the Independency of that Kingdom, it was necessary they should come over to Great Britain, where the Suprem Legislature lies. He did not explain himself further to what Court they must come ; tho' 'tis evident he meant the House of Lords.

Mr. Hutchinson was the last that spoke for Ireland, he urg'd the great dissatisfaction this Bill, it pass'd, must create over that whole Nation ; which must be pernicious to the Interest and Security of the present Government.

He added that the timing of it was extraordinary when Great Britain was, both in Scotland, and Ireland divided in Affection and Interest, by Partys, not yet Crush'd ; and a Pretender to the Throne yet alive : He Concluded with the miserable Condition a poor Man of Ireland will hence forward be in, when
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the Right to his small Property shall be Attack'd by an Adversary rich in Wealth and Friends, who shall dragg him over to England that his Cause may be Tryed, where he has neither Friends, nor perhaps means to set forth his Right.

The last of all who spoke was Mr. Smith who said he was for the Bill, because the taking away this pretended Power of Receiving Appeals in Ireland, may in time pave the way to deprive the Lords of Great Britain of it.

They went to the Vote; and 140 were for Committment, and 88 against it.

F I N I S.
